# Kensington Woods

# **General Course Information**

Course Title	Middle School Math
Description	A required math course covering pre-algebraic and algebraic concepts.
Room Number	134
Faculty Name	Mrs. McDermott
Contact Information	517-545-0828
	Imcdermott@kwoods.org

# Introduction

Welcome to Middle School Math!

Mathematics is the universal language used to identify, describe, and investigate the patterns and problems of our world. This class will develop the foundation you will need to be successful in future mathematics courses. Some major topics we will be exploring together include

- Operations with Integers and Rational Numbers,
- Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities,
- Ratios, Proportions, and Similar Figures,
- Right Triangles
- Probability
- Percent, and
- Surface Area and Volume.

I look forward to exploring these topics with you this year.

# **Course Expectations**

# Students will be expected to:

- Participate in classroom discussions and in-class activities,
- Complete regularly assigned reading/homework independently,
- Take notes during class,
- Complete all assignments and assessments, and
- Show all work or thought process when completing homework. Full credit will not be given for answers which do not include supporting rationale and/or required prior steps.

# **Recommended supplies:**

- Notebook, folder, and/or binder for organizing notes, handouts, and homework.
- Graph paper
- Calculator (TI-30 or higher)

# **Keys to Success**

- Study daily (review class notes).
- Take notes in class.
- Stay organized.
- Do the homework.
- Ask for help. Don't wait for the day before the exam to seek help.
- Ask questions and participate in class.
- Form a study group. Often working with another person can help promote student learning.

# **Essential Standards of Learning**

Instruction will focus on:

- Developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships,
- Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations,
- Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions,
- Working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area surface area, and volume,
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples, and
- Grasping the concept of a function.

# Prerequisite knowledge/skills for success in this course

Mastery Level	Prerequisites: Open to all students who have successfully completed their			
	previous math class.			
	Work habits: Students will be able to work effectively independently and in			
	groups.			
	Academic integrity: Students will act honestly and ethically in their work.			
	Study skills: Students will adhere to assignment deadlines.			
Familiarity Level	Intellectual openness: Students will use mathematical skills and technological			
	tools to solve real world problems.			
	<b>Reading and Comprehension:</b> Students will be expected to read assigned text			
	and be prepared to discuss in class.			

# **Course Materials**

# Textbook-Pre-Algebra, Glencoe, 2012



Students will be assigned a textbook at the beginning of the school year and will be required to complete a textbook agreement form signed by a parent/guardian. Students will be expected to bring this textbook to class on a daily basis. Students will be responsible for their assigned book throughout the school year and will be charged a replacement fee if the book is lost or damaged. The school is not responsible for books left behind in the classroom. Students are highly encouraged to use a book cover to protect their book from damage.

### Calculator- TI-Nspire Handheld from Texas Instruments



Students will be assigned an Nspire to use during class. These handheld devices may not leave the classroom since they need to be shared among all classes. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase an Nspire or Nspire CX for use at home. There are a limited number of Nspires which may be check out by students on a nightly basis, but there is not a guarantee one will be available for all students who need to sign one out. Any student who wants to sign out a TI-Nspire overnight must have an agreement form that is signed by a parent/guardian on file with Mrs. McDermott.

# Grading

Your <u>semester</u> grade will be determined as	Kensington Woods Grading Scale	
follows:	A = 95-100 (4.0)	
Summative Assessments 90%	A- = 90-94 (3.7)	
Summative Assessments 50%	B+ = 87-89 (3.3)	
Semester Exam 10%	B = 83-86 (3.0)	
	B- = 80-82 (2.7)	
Summative Assessments include	C+ = 77-79 (2.3)	
	C = 73-76 (2.0)	
Chapter Quizzes Tasta	C- = 70-72 (1.6)	
<ul><li>rests</li><li>Projects</li></ul>	F = below 70 (0.0)	

# Mastery Learning Philosophy: Practice Leads to Success

At Kensington Woods, we believe in a Mastery Learning Philosophy that allows students to develop their skills and knowledge until they can demonstrate mastery of the content. For learning to happen best, teachers need to monitor where students are in the learning process. Therefore, we expect students to complete all homework to prepare for quizzes and tests. These assessments will give students feedback at regular intervals.

### **Formative Assessments/Homework**

- Assignments should be done neatly. Writing in pencil is highly recommended. The process of solving a math problem is just as important as the final answer. Therefore, you must show your work!
- Assignments that are not completed during class time are expected to be finished as homework before the date it will be collected. On the due date, students must turn in an assignment that shows their best effort. If students feel they need additional time to master the material, they must make arrangements with Mrs. McDermott to get help outside of class time. It is the students' responsibility to make sure they found out what they missed during an absence.

### Summative Assessments

 <u>Quizzes and Tests</u> - Students will generally have one or two quizzes per chapter and one test at the end of each chapter. These tests will include the current material covered in the chapter as well as some **review problems**. If students are absent on test day, they will be expected to make up the test on the day they return to school.

- <u>Test Corrections</u> Students will usually be given the opportunity to make test corrections for half credit on the day the test is returned. Generally, only one class day will be allotted for test corrections. Beyond that, students must meet with the teacher outside of class time for corrections.
- <u>Retakes</u> Students who wish to retake a quiz or test must follow the following steps within two weeks after they receive the graded test:
  - Fill out and turn in the Request to Revise or Retest form,
  - Turn in all homework from the unit,
  - Arrange to retake the test (after school, during study skills, etc.).

# **Classroom Expectations**

Students should come to class ready to learn. Students should respect the learning environment, including the people and property around them. Students will be given the opportunity to have food and drinks in the classroom if they prove they can do so in a responsible manner.

# **Beginning of Class**

Be on time and in your seat with all required materials. This includes your book, calculator, folder or notebook, assignments, paper, pencil and checking pen. Students will be expected to complete the Warm Up or follow directions as given.

# **Class Assignments and Activities**

Students will be expected to participate in classroom activities and to complete classroom assignments. Class assignments will usually be graded on effort and completeness. Assignments may be collected on a daily or weekly basis. Students will be given the responsibility to check their own assignments in class.

# End of Class

Students are expected to return all materials to their designated places and then return to their seats. Students will be dismissed by the **teacher. All students must be seated before class will be dismissed.** 

# Course Grade

Students are encouraged to check MI-STAR to see their grades. Students may also make arrangements to see me outside of class to get grade information. Time will not be taken out of class on a daily basis to discuss individual student grades.

# Cell Phones/Earbuds

Cell phones should not be seen or heard during class unless permission is given by the teacher. If cell phones or electronic devices are used inappropriately or are a distraction in class, they will be confiscated by the teacher or given to the Main Office. Earbuds cannot be used unless permission is given by the teacher.

# Schedule

The following is an outline of the topics that will be covered as well as the planned schedule for the course. Please keep in mind this schedule will be adjusted as needed to best meet the needs of the class.

Time Frame	Topics	Assessments
September	Chapter 1 – The Tools of Algebra Chapter 2 – Operations with Integers TI-Nspire Technology Intro	Chapter 1 Quiz Chapter 1 Test Chapter 2 Quiz Chapter 2 Test
October	Chapter 3 – Operations with Rational Numbers Chapter 4 – Expressions and Equations	Chapter 3 Quiz Chapter 3 Test Chapter 4 Quiz Chapter 4 Test
November	Chapter 5 – Multi-Step Equations and Inequalities	Chapter 5 Quiz Chapter 5 Test
December	Chapter 6 – Ratios, Proportion, and Similar Figures	Chapter 6 Quiz Chapter 6 Test <b>Semester Exam Chapters 1-6</b>
January	Chapter 7 – Percent Chapter 8 – Linear Functions and Graphing	Chapter 7 Quiz Chapter 7 Test Chapter 8 Quiz Chapter 8 Test
February	Chapter 9 – Powers and Nonlinear Functions	Chapter 9 Quiz Chapter 9 Test
March	Chapter 10 – Real Numbers and Right Triangles Chapter 11 – Distance and Angles	Chapter 10 Quiz Chapter 10 Test Chapter 11 Quiz Chapter 11 Test
April	Chapter 12 – Surface Area and Volume Chapter 13 – Statistics and Probability	Chapter 12 Quiz Chapter 12 Test Chapter 13 Quiz Chapter 13 Test
Мау	Chapter 14 – Looking Ahead to Algebra I	Chapter 14 Quiz Chapter 14 Test <b>Semester Exam Chapters 7-14</b>